Exercises

1. Match the Japanese words on the left to the English equivalents on the right.

1. 一度もしてない \_\_ public bathhouse
2. \_\_ firewood
3. \_\_ wife
4. \_\_ not even once
5. \_\_ report
6. まき \_\_ halfhearted/irresponsible
7. What does Daigo notice that makes him rush inside his home?

(Daigo notices that the front door is ajar and therefore anticipates that Mika has returned)

1. What is the significance of Daigo finding Mika doing the chores?

(reinforcing gender roles, division of work )

1. What is Daigo’s initial reaction to Mika’s news? How does this change in the scene?
2. やっぱり私がいないとだめね。Why does Mika say this?
3. もう中途半端な生き方はやめて Evaluate Mika’s reasons for making this request.
4. Outline the mood established between Mika and Daigo in this initial reunion. Explain with reference to the dialogue
5. Comment on the choice of camera shot immediately following Mika’s announcement of her Pregnancy

(medium shot – focussing on dialogue. Use of the table to separate both characters, placement of hands,

Lighting – darker

1. Describe Mika’s reaction to the phone call with reference to her body language.
2. Explain how Daigo is shown to cope with change in this scene
3. Explore the issue of coping with change in this scene and the film as a whole
4. Compare and contrast the ability of Mika and Daigo to cope with change in this scene
5. What is written on the notice outside the bathhouse?
6. In the change of scene from Daigo’s home to the bathhouse, what do you notice is missing from the bathhouse shot?
7. What does the death of Tsuyako Yamashita (the bath house owner) symbolise?
8. What is the significance of Mrs yamashita’s death? Explore in relation to the theme of the place of traditions in modern society.
9. What is the effect of the camera angle as we enter the home of the deceased? (barrier created by the open shoji looking into the tatami room)
10. What props are used only at a funeral?
11. Scene: 1.34.28 (exchange of glances as daigo and Mika enter bathhouse)

How does this camera shot reflect the varying degrees of connectedness between Mika, Daigo and Sasaki?

1. 最期の最期まではたらいていたんですね Discuss the significance of Daigo’s comment
2. How is Mika’s view of Daigo’s job likely to change after watching him perform his duties at the bathhouse owner’s funeral? Explain.
3. In what way does the use of the scarf represent the theme of connectedness?